

**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor :Ryoichi OTAKI
Filed :October 16, 2003
For :STARTING APPARATUS FOR AN.....
Serial Number :10/688,850

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 6, 2004

Preliminary Amendment

Sir:

Prior to issuance of an Office Action, please amend the application as follows: